

Whom Are we Following? Jesus the Beloved Son (Mark 1:9-13)

Q. Who are the people you would trust with your life? Who has had the biggest impact on how you think and live your life each day? What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

Read Mark 1:9-11:

“Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.’” (Mark 1:9-11, ESV)

Q. Jesus here is anointed with the Holy Spirit. This is the start of Jesus’ public ministry. God the Father describes Jesus as his “beloved son”. What does this tell us about the relationship within the Trinity?

Read Isaiah 61:1:

*Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the poor,
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound. (Isaiah 61:1, ESV)*

Q. For centuries, Jews had looked forward to a coming Messiah – an anointed one – who would bring Good News to the world. In what ways did Jesus fulfil Isaiah’s prophecy, and how can the church continue Jesus’ work? Do we think of ourselves as people who have also been anointed with the Spirit and given a great commission?

Read 1 Peter 4:14:

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” (1 Peter 4:14, ESV)

Q. How does this verse encourage you? What difference will it make to your life knowing that the Spirit of glory rests upon you?

Read Romans 8:16-17:

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:16-17, ESV)

Q. How are our lives and our destinies now intertwined with the life of the risen Jesus? What does it mean to be an “heir with Christ”?

Read Mark 1:12-13:

“The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness 40 days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.” (Mark 1:12-13, ESV)

Q. Jesus’ baptism and anointing was followed by 40 days of isolation and temptation in the wilderness by the adversary of God’s people. How does it comfort you that Jesus can relate to temptations felt by his people? Do you feel you are in the wilderness in any way? How can we minister to each other?